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[www.smchsa.org](http://www.smchsa.org)

#### **Director**

Beverly Beasley Johnson, JD

#### **Board of Supervisors**

Carole Groom

Don Horsley

Rose Jacobs Gibson

Adrienne J. Tissier

#### **Mission**

The San Mateo County Human Services Agency assists individuals and families to achieve economic self-sufficiency, promotes community and family strength, and works to ensure child safety and well-being.

## **Overview Description of San Mateo County's Specialized Care Program**

Specialized Care increments are available in San Mateo County for Foster Family Homes, which would include Relative, License Foster, Non-Related Extended Family Members, Non-Related Legal Guardian, and per guidelines of ACL 07-13 Kin Gap homes.

San Mateo County's Difficulty of Care Rates Instruction Sheet (CS61) provides staff with guidelines and rate ranges for the three care components (Emotional, Physical and Auxiliary Care) of its' specialized care program.

In addition to the type of placements mentioned above there are two types of license foster homes that are specifically eligible for specialized care increments based upon being designated as such, by the San Mateo County Human Services Agency, these homes are called Adolescent Care and Medically Fragile. Each of these two types of homes operate under prescribe criteria and procedures required to be designated as, an Adolescent Care or Medically Fragile Home in San Mateo County.

When placing in San Mateo County if clarification of our Specialized Care program is needed please contact the County staff listed on this site as contacts for Specialized Care for San Mateo County.





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## DIFFICULTY OF CARE RATES INSTRUCTIONS / REQUEST FORM CS-61

This form is to be completed jointly by the social worker and foster parent keeping in mind that all foster children have problems in relationships, behavior, or school to some degree. The Difficulty of Care rate is intended for those children that require additional care, supervision and tolerance on the part of the foster parents or an unusual expenditure of energy or financial resources to cope with the identified problem. It is important to detail what the foster parent is required to provide because of the child's behavior or problems that are not age related. Include any diagnosis made by a physician or mental health diagnostician.

Below are examples of the kinds of problems that may occur. The dollar amounts are in addition to the basic rate paid for the child. Depending on the extent of the difficulty, the amount may range within the limits specified for each level. Usually the higher rate in the range is used when more than one example applies. A combination of emotional and physical problems may indicate a higher total Difficulty of Care rate than each individually.

Specific amounts under "Auxiliary Care" are also added to the total, but in no instance can the maximum Difficulty of Care rate be exceeded.

The maximum length of time that will be approved is 6 months. As the child improves, the amount is to be adjusted accordingly or discontinued. There must be an open service case.

If known, please add the eligibility worker's name or number at the bottom of the form.

### EMOTIONAL CARE

MINIMUM LEVEL. 6-18 years: \$1 to \$50.

Child is excessively dependent requiring unusual reassurances by foster parents; child is excessively demanding of attention; child has school or learning problems which require more than usual help with school work and contacts with school; child's behavior requires extra effort in limit setting and structure and special skill in discipline; excessively destructive to clothing and toys; enuresis; encopresis.

MEDIUM LEVEL. 6-12 years: \$50 to \$100. 13 yrs up: \$50 to maximum rate.

Child's behavior requires foster parent to spend time with neighbors, school authorities, etc. in explaining and working out problems; severe school problems; hyperactivity which is disruptive in home and neighborhood; severe problem in peer relationships.

MAXIMUM LEVEL. 6-12 years: \$100 to maximum rate. 13 yrs up: To maximum rate.

Extreme attention-seeking behavior; destructive behavior which results in frequent property damage; dangerous behavior or suicidal; problematic drug use; extreme hyperactivity (diagnosed); serious depression.

CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE. \$1 to \$100.

Very unusual situations only. Most problems with this age child are covered in Physical and Auxiliary Care. A few young children

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exhibit uncontrollable behavior or destructiveness which warrant a Difficulty of Care rate. Consult with Coordinator prior to submitting request.

PHYSICAL CARE

MINIMUM LEVEL.      0-18 years:      \$1 to \$50.

Child needs help with braces or prosthetic devices but is self-caring; severe feeding problem; management of regular medication for conditions such as diabetes, seizures, psychotropic drugs which require observation and accurate reporting to the physician; older child needs regular help with dressing and hygiene; foster parent assists with regular physical therapy.

MEDIUM LEVEL.      0-12 years:      \$50 to \$100.      13 years up:      \$50 to maximum rate.

Tube or gavage feeding; combination or unusual degree of examples listed above may warrant higher rate.

MAXIMUM LEVEL.      0-6 years:      \$100 to maximum in very unusual situations only.  
7-12 years:      \$100 to maximum rate.  
12 years up:      To maximum rate.

Child requires suctioning or aspirating; non-ambulatory; frequent hospitalizations and convalescent care; colostomy, ileal conduit or similar special care; uncontrollable seizures; management and care in severe medical conditions which would otherwise require a specialized home.

AUXILIARY CARE

SPECIAL DIET – at cost

TRANSPORTATION – specify mileage per month and dollar amount.  
(Dollar amount determined by amount per mile approved for staff).

Foster parent takes child for regularly scheduled therapy; for unusual number of medical appointments, e.g. every week or more on a regular basis; takes child to office for parental visits; takes child to school or nursery if part of case plan; takes child for any appointments at agency request that are greater distance than normally expected, etc. If in order to take child for such specified appointments, hiring a sitter for other children is necessary, this may also be included. Indicate number of hours and cost.

PARENTAL VISITING (usually \$1 - \$50 but may be higher in exceptional cases) - when visits occur more than weekly; when parents are difficult to handle and require special skill or tolerance because of conditions such as psychosis or alcoholism (show up at foster home drunk), or are very belligerent and hostile.

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REQUEST FOR DIFFICULTY OF CARE RATES

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Case Number \_\_\_\_\_

Current Placement \_\_\_\_\_ Current Rate \_\_\_\_\_ Current Rate Expires \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL

A foster parent may receive foster care funds above the basic rate for an individual child who requires extraordinary care and attention. The amount of increase should be set by the social worker and foster parent, based on the exceptional efforts the foster parent must make to meet the needs of the child. Within the categories below, describe problem behavior and identify frequency and remedial services required. Auxiliary care includes dealing with schools, therapists and other professionals, and the natural family, which would not be required for a child his/her age not having this problem.

I. EMOTIONAL CARE

Behavior	Frequency	Services Foster Parent Must Provide

II. PHYSICAL CARE

Behavior	Frequency	Services Foster Parent Must Provide

III. AUXILARY CARE

Behavior	Frequency	Services Foster Parent Must Provide

WORKER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Basic Rate \_\_\_\_\_ Compensation for Additional Services \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective Date \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Time (6 month maximum) \_\_\_\_\_

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To be completed by Program Manager:

Effective Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time Limits \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly Rate \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Social Worker \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility Worker \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution: 1) Eligibility 2) Case Record 3) Foster Parent 4) Program Manager



**Inspiring Individuals. Empowering Communities.**



March 8, 2001

**SAN MATEO COUNTY'S  
SPECIALIZED CARE RATE STRUCTURE  
REFLECTING 5% RATE INCREASE AUTHORIZED IN  
ACL 08-01  
EFFECTIVE 1-01-08**

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**Basic & Kin Gap Rates  
Family Home:**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Basic Rate</b>
0-4	\$446
5-8	\$485
9-11	\$519
12-14	\$573
15-20	\$627

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<b>Above Average Care (Requires Supervisor's Signature)</b>	<b>Specialized Care Rates</b>		<b>Total Payment Maximum</b>
	<b>Basic Rate (Increases With Age)</b>	<b>Specialize Care (Maximum Increment)</b>	
	<b>446</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>643</b>
<b>Adolescent Care Home</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>1143</b>
<b>Above Average Care Tier I (Requires Manager's Signature)</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>997</b>
<b>Medically Fragile Home Tier I</b>			

**Medically Fragile Homes Require memo signed by Homefinding Unit**

<b>Medically Fragile Home Tier II</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>1280</b>
<b>Medically Fragile Home Tier III</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>1630</b>	<b>2076</b>
<b>Small Family Home Mental Health Home</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>1279</b>

